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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following paragraph:

[0018] In an embodiment of the present invention, a method on a computer for providing critical chain-based project management across a plurality of projects is disclosed. The method includes generating a plurality of project plans having a critical chain, each of the plurality of project plans corresponding to one of the plurality of projects, wherein a project comprises at least one task. The method further includes generating buffers for each of the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain, and reconciling project resources among the plurality of projects so as to accommodate the critical chain. The method further includes executing the plurality of project plans, including continuously providing status information about the buffers to a user and allowing a the user to manage the buffers across the plurality of projects. ~~The user is further provided with information associated with buffers for the plurality of projects, so as to evaluate the status of the plurality of projects.~~ Additionally, the user is provided with task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following paragraph:

[0019] In another embodiment of the present invention, a network interface is available to the user for allowing the user to manage the buffers across the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers, providing the user with information associated with buffers for the plurality of projects and providing the user with task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects. The network interface can be a Web or Internet interface.

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Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following paragraph:

[0020] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a server computer system for providing critical chain-based project management across a plurality of projects is disclosed. The server computer system includes a memory storage device including computers instructions for client module for generating a plurality of project plans having a critical chain, each of the plurality of project plans corresponding to one of the plurality of projects, wherein a project comprises at least one task. The computer instructions further include instructions for system further includes a buffer module for generating buffers for each of the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain, and a reconciliation module for reconciling project resources among the plurality of projects so as to accommodate the critical chain. The computer instructions further include instructions for system further includes an execution module for executing the plurality of project plans, including continuously providing status information about the buffers to a user comprising and providing an interface for allowing a the user to manage the buffers across the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers. The interface further provides to the user information associated with buffers for the plurality of projects, so as to evaluate the status of the plurality of projects, and task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects. The interface is provided over a network, such as a WAN.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following paragraph:

[0021] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a computer readable medium memory storage device for providing critical chain-based project management across a plurality of projects is disclosed. The computer readable medium memory storage device includes instructions for generating a

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plurality of project plans having a critical chain, each of the plurality of project plans corresponding to one of the plurality of projects, wherein a project comprises at least one task. The ~~computer readable medium~~ memory storage device further includes instructions for generating buffers for each of the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain, and reconciling project resources among the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain. The ~~computer readable medium~~ memory storage device further includes instructions for executing the plurality of project plans, including continuously providing status information about the buffers to a user and providing an interface to the user for allowing the a user to manage the buffers across the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers. The computer readable medium further includes instructions for continuously modifying task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects ~~executing the plurality of project plans, including allowing a user to manage the buffers across the plurality of projects. The user is further provided with information associated with buffers for the plurality of projects, so as to evaluate the status of the plurality of projects. Additionally, the user is provided with task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects.~~

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following paragraph:

[0051] FIG. 2 further shows a group of clients for connecting to the project management server system 102. These clients include a single project-planning client 212 240, a buffering client 214, and a resource reconciliation client 216, otherwise known as a pipelining client 216. The single project planning client 212 240 allows a project manager to generate and submit a project plan to the project management server system 102. The buffering client 214 modifies a

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project plan to include a required set of buffers. The resource reconciliation client 216 processes all project plans and reconciles all resource conflicts in order to produce a master project plan. The resource reconciliation client 216, or pipelining client, performs cross-project or multiple project planning, as opposed to single project planning.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following paragraph:

[0052] Single project planning client 212 ~~240~~, the buffering client 214, and the resource reconciliation client 216 are client applications, such as C++, Visual Basic, Java applet, a Java scriptlet, Java script, Perl script, an Active X control or any self-sufficient application executing on a client computer. The clients of FIG. 2 can communicate with the project management server system 102 via a Web interface such as a commercially available Web browser, e.g., Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer. The functions of the single project planning client 212 ~~240~~, the buffering client 214, and the resource reconciliation client 216 are described in greater detail below.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following paragraph:

[0062] A project manager ~~manger~~ interacts with the single project-planning client 212 in order to generate a project plan 408 based on the project template 404 from the project template bank 402. The project plan 408 is then submitted to the project management system 102, for example, over the Web via a Web page or over the Internet via an email message. A project plan 408 is a map, table, chart or any other organization of information that shows the intended progression of a project from start to finish. In one embodiment of the present invention, Microsoft Project, a project management application available from Microsoft Corporation, is used as the single project-planning client 212 to create a project plan. In this embodiment, Microsoft Project, which does not utilize a

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critical chain-based project management methodology, is used in conjunction with a plug-in, API or standalone application that offers critical chain-based calculations for generating a project plan.

Please replace paragraph [0073] with the following paragraph:

[0073] In step 504, the settings of the project management server system 102 are configured ~~configures~~ by a user, such as a system administrator or a project manager. The settings module 210 can be used for configuring the settings of the project management server system 102. Settings module 210 can be used to manage user and group accounts, manage user and group permissions and authorizations, set use policies, set system and Web interface parameters, modify configuration settings on the project management server system 102 and the like. As explained above, the settings module 210 can be a simple Web interface realized through a commercially available Web browser, wherein the user enters and/or modifies settings via a Web page.

Please replace paragraph [0074] with the following paragraph:

[0074] In step 506, the single project-planning client 212 accesses a project template 404 from a project template bank 402. A project template 404 is a template of a project plan, defined beforehand such that projects of similar type and/or scope need not be generated from scratch by a project manager. In step 508, a project manager ~~manger~~ interacts with the single project-planning client 212 in order to generate a project plan 408 based on the project template 404 from the project template bank 402. A project plan 408 is a map, table, chart or any other organization of information that shows the intended progression of a project from start to finish. The generation of a project plan 408 by the single project planning client 212 gives way to the buffering client 214, which inserts buffers into the project plan 408 in step 510. The buffering client 214 processes

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the project plan 408 and inserts a variety of buffers into the project plan 408, resulting in a project plan with buffers 406.

Please replace paragraph [0079] with the following paragraph:

[0079] FIG. 10 shows the updating of task statuses via the task-updating module 218. The task-updating module 218 is used by task managers to update the status of tasks and projects with the project management server system 102 during the course of a project or projects. The task-updating module 218 can be used to manage the creation and modification of task information for projects, before and during execution. The task-updating module 218 can further be used to update task statuses, forecast how much more time it will take to finish the task, modify task attributes, provide information on what may be holding up a task, and the like. As explained above, the task updating module 218 can be a simple Web interface realized through a commercially available Web browser, wherein the user enters and/or modifies task information via a Web page.

Please replace paragraph [0082] with the following paragraph:

[0082] Returning to FIG. 10, also shown is the reports module 220 for the generation and/or download of reports during execution of the project. The reports module 220 is used by task and project managers to evaluate the status of a project or projects of the project management server system 102 during the course of a project or projects. The reports module 220 can be used to download various kinds of reports, such as progress chart and graphs, which can be used to evaluate the status of a project during execution. Examples of charts ~~chart~~ and graphs that may be downloaded using the reports module 220 are provided below. As explained above, the reports module 220 ~~task updating module 218~~ can be a simple Web interface realized through a commercially available Web browser, wherein the user enters and/or modifies task

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information via a Web page.

Please replace paragraph [0096] with the following paragraph:

[0096] The user interface 1300 shows a list of tasks and, for each task, a task description in column 1306, a task earliest arrival date in column 1308, a task status in column 1310, a remaining duration for the task in column 1312 and a last update date in column 1314. The user interface 1300 also shows a task priority column 1330 for identifying the priority of the tasks. Priority in column 1330 is shown by color. High priority tasks are shown as red, while low priority tasks are shown as green red. A review of the user interface 1300 shows that the first task 1332 is high priority as the task priority in column 1330 is marked as red. The user interface 1300 also shows that the upcoming task 1334 is high priority as the task priority in column 1330 is also marked as red. The method in which task priorities are calculated is described in more detail with reference to FIG. 14 below.

Please replace paragraph [0098] with the following paragraph:

[0098] FIG. 13B is a screenshot of a second task prioritization user interface 1350 in one embodiment of the present invention. The user interface 1350 can be realized as a Web page accessible over the Web by a Web browser. The user interface 1350 shows all tasks for a particular project manager, as indicated in text field 1370, starting on a particular date, as indicated in text field 1372, and for a specified period of time, as indicated in text field 1374. The aforementioned text fields allow for different views of information by selecting various selections in the aforementioned text fields, such as selecting a different project manager manger in the text field 1370.